

CONFIDENTIAL

2 June 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Inquiry from Representative John E. Moss
(D., Calif.) - Soviet Publication Voyennaya
Mysl' (Military Thought) for November 1968

1. In response to a call from Mr. Matteson, House Government Information and Foreign Operations Subcommittee staff, I met with him and reviewed the committee file on a complaint received by the Chairman concerning classification of an item listed in the Technical Abstract Bulletin published by the Defense Documentation Center, Defense Supply Agency. The complainant noted in his letter that he had recently noticed a trend toward classification of translations from Russian books and publications and cited bulletin No. 69-3. Mr. Matteson requested that the complainant's name not be cited even though he had provided the complete file for my review. He furnished a copy of the Chairman's letter to the Secretary of the Navy (attached) for background information.

2. I advised Mr. Matteson that I was familiar in general with the Soviet publication, Military Thought, and that it was my understanding that it is published in three versions which are classified by the Soviets. Mr. Matteson was interested in whether classification by the Agency is related to the content of the subsequent translation (which in this instance was by the Navy Department) or solely to protect the source of this Soviet publication. I advised that our classification would be for protection of source. On a personal note, Mr. Matteson expressed interest in the question whether the Soviet Embassy might not have access to the Technical Abstract Bulletin through normal publication channels and, if so, wouldn't they then be apprised of the fact that we are able to acquire Military Thought.

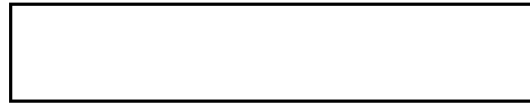
3. We discussed at some length Chairman Moss' very strong personal interest in "overclassification" by the Executive Branch. Even though Mr. Matteson foresees no further official question on this particular matter, he agreed that it would be well to schedule a meeting for Mr. Maury with Representative Moss on his return to the city.

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4. I intend to follow up in approximately ten days on a date to meet with Chairman Moss. No further action is desired by Mr. Matteson.

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Assistant Legislative Counsel

Att

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OLC/JGO:sml (4 June 1969)

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